



PROPOSED STORMWATER FEE

Stormwater (runoff from rain, snow, and sleet) flows from our roads, driveways, and parking lots into the city drain system. This infrastructure is decades old and needs significant upgrades and ongoing maintenance. The city council is considering implementing a stormwater fee dedicated to covering these costs. Watch for details about a public information meeting coming soon.

Proposed fee structure

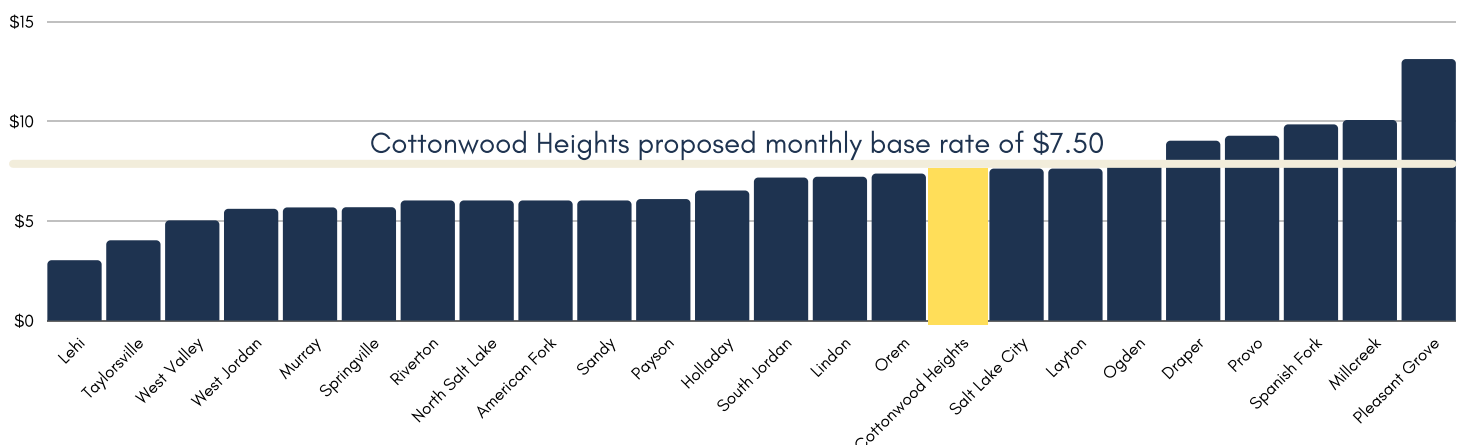
per 5,000-sq equivalent residential unit (ERU)

YEAR	2021
Monthly rate (per ERU)	\$7.50
Annual rate (per ERU)	\$90
Generated revenue	\$1.4M

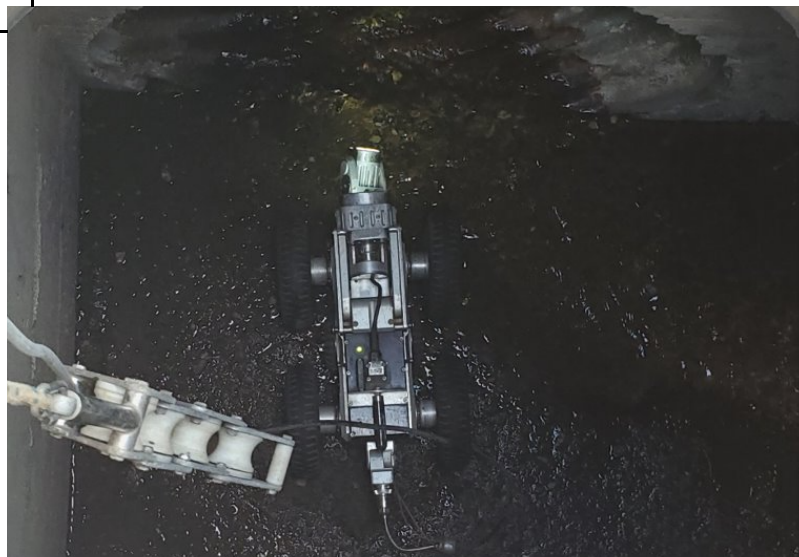
An ERU is the amount of impervious surface on a single-family residential property. The typical Cottonwood Heights home has 5,000 square feet of impervious area — surfaces that don't allow stormwater to pass through underlying soil — including:

- concrete
- patios
- sports courts
- parking lots
- rooftops

Cottonwood Heights is one of the last Wasatch Front cities to consider implementing a stormwater fee. See how the proposed base rate compares to area cities that have a fee already.



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Why does Cottonwood Heights need a stormwater fee?

Cottonwood Heights' stormwater projects are currently budgeted in the general fund and compete for funding against all other needs, including police services, roads, and public works. Over the past few years, flooding and mudslides have damaged homes, and Cottonwood Heights has lacked the dedicated budget to replace storm drains and other aging infrastructure elements. The city worked with T-O Engineers to identify nearly \$19.2 million in stormwater projects that need to be addressed and will require additional revenue, preferably in a dedicated stormwater fund. Cottonwood Heights is one of the last cities along the Wasatch Front to consider implementing a stormwater fee (Holladay and Millcreek implemented fees in 2020).

What does a stormwater fee do?

A stormwater fee:

- Establishes an adequate fund to repair, replace, and maintain stormwater infrastructure
- Allows the city to clean and take video/photos of existing stormwater pipes to better prioritize projects for improving the system and preventing flooding, alleviating excess and standing water, and protecting nearby waterways from contamination
- Ensures Cottonwood Heights has funding to comply with the Clean Water Act, which requires municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) develop a stormwater management plan (SWMP) and prevent water pollution
- More equitably collects funds for stormwater than other potential funding mechanisms (traditional taxes)



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